

NEWS RELEASE

A.M. BEST COMPANY, OLDWICK, NJ • A.M. BEST EUROPE, LONDON A.M. BEST ASIA-PACIFIC, HONG KONG http://www.ambest.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Analysts

CONTACTS: Public Relations

Jim Peavy

(908) 439-2200, ext. 5644 james.peavy@ambest.com

Kenneth Tappen (908) 439-2200, ext. 5248 kenneth.tappen@ambest.com

February 9, 2005

Rachelle Striegel

(908) 439-2200, ext. 5378 rachelle.striegel@ambest.com

Richard Attanasio (908) 439-2200, ext. 5432 richard.attanasio@ambest.com

A.M. Best Affirms Ratings of Mercury Casualty Group and Mercury General Corporation

Ratings Supplement

The financial strength ratings of A+ (Superior) have been affirmed with a stable outlook for Mercury Casualty Group and its following members:

- Mercury Casualty Company
- Mercury Insurance Company
- California Automobile Insurance Company
- Mercury Indemnity Company of Georgia
- Mercury Insurance Company of Georgia
- Mercury Insurance Company of Illinois
- Mercury National Insurance Company
- Mercury Insurance Company of Florida

The financial strength ratings of A- (Excellent) have been affirmed with a positive outlook for American Mercury Insurance Group and its following members:

- American Mercury Insurance Company
- American Mercury Lloyds Insurance Company

The financial strength rating has been downgraded to A- (Excellent) from A+ (Superior) with a positive outlook for **Mercury County Mutual Insurance Company** to reflect its transfer to American Mercury Insurance Group from Mercury Casualty Group.

The following debt rating has been affirmed with a stable outlook:

Mercury General Corporation—

-- "a-" on \$125 million 7.250% senior notes, due 2011

The following indicative rating on securities available under the \$300 million shelf



NEWS RELEASE

A.M. BEST COMPANY, OLDWICK, NJ • A.M. BEST EUROPE, LONDON A.M. BEST ASIA-PACIFIC, HONG KONG http://www.ambest.com

—2—

registration, of which \$175 million remains, has been affirmed with a stable outlook:

Mercury General Corporation—
-- "a-" on senior debt

A.M. Best Co., established in 1899, is the world's oldest and most authoritative insurance rating and information source. For more information, visit A.M. Best's Web site at http://www.ambest.com.

####